

beavers, any holes in the bank similarly stopped ; attention was then turned to the house, a trough was first cut in the ice around it, when the outlets were found, a small stick was hung in front of each, and a man put on guard. The rest then broke into the house with axes and ice chisels and so routed out the inhabitants, when one started out he disturbed the stick and the man on watch plunged his arm into the water and in an instant had it on the ice where it was immediately dispatched with a club. If luck was good, two or three beavers would reward a day's work of this kind, but several times blanks were drawn.

In this manner the journey was continued and the height of land reached December 9th.

Here an escarpment running N. E. and S. W. was descended 300ft. to a comparatively level country stretching away to the northward. Just beyond the height of land is a large lake called Temiscamie ; this was crossed and the river flowing out followed 16 miles, when a portage of 2 miles was crossed into the head of Lake Mistassinis or Little Mistassini.

This lake lies parallel to the big lake on its East side, and its level is some 40 or 50ft. above the latter. On its east shore, perpendicular cliffs of limestone rise in places 50 or 60ft. above the water ; this limestone is of a greyish blue colour and is often quite cherty, a similar rock is seen on the shores of the larger lake, both in fact resting in great basins scooped out of these rocks, which seem to be an outlier of Cambrian rock, similar to those of the east coast of Hudson Bay, which here rest in an old depression in the Archean.

Little Mistassini was followed to its southern end, where a portage of six miles was made to the great lake and its shore followed some 35 miles to the Hudson Bay Post which was reached December 23rd. The last ten days journey was very hard as provisions ran out, first the pork and then the flour, and starvation was kept off partly by a generous contribution of fish from an indian encampment which we happened upon near the end of Mistassinis and by a small supply of provisions from the post, also by finding on lines set through the ice a few large turbot (*Lota maculosa*) called Maria by the Hudson Bay people and common to all the great lakes of the north. The post was reached in a blizzard, from the effects of which everybody suffered for several days, black patches of skin showing where the frost had done its work.